Labour-saving Devices.

LEVELLER, FURROWER, MARKER AND REAPING ATTACHMENT.

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In these days of labour shortage, every labour-saving device is of importance, for any delay in farming operations may not only add to the work eventually, but in many cases may result in the partial or complete failure of a crop.

A delay in irrigating is perhaps fraught with the most serious results.

The farmer who is cultivating a large area of land can afford to purchase the most up-to-date modern implements; the small farmer, however, is not in the same position: his limited crop area renders such expenditure inadvisable, and with small fields to work, many of the modern farm implements could not be used to advantage.

The accompanying diagrams illustrate a land leveller and an irrigation furrower, as used at the Invermere Experimental Station; both devices are simple in construction, and could be made by any handy carpenter, at very small expense.

The leveller has the advantage over many forms now in use, in that the operator can ride and so have better control of his team: the lifting device is simple, and can be operated by the teamster, but on very irregular ground, where constant lifting may be necessary, it is found advantageous to employ a second man.

Two light horses can draw a leveller of the width shown in the diagram.

The time spent in levelling the land would be more than repaid, in any one season, by the saving of labour in irrigating, and a more even distribution of water would result.

On many fields it would pay to run this, or some form of plank leveller, over the land each spring, prior to seeding.

The furrower, illustrated by the second design, is not claimed to be a new idea, but rather an improvement on the devices used on many ranches. It requires only one horse, and will draw out three or four furrows at a time: the furrowing attachments may be placed at any distance apart, to suit the widths of the drills, or the nature of the soil.

For corn in its early stages, and for roots during their entire period of growth, three furrowers can be fitted, the centre one to follow the horse, and one on either side to run between the adjoining drills. The weight of the rider, and the depth adjuster provide the necessary weight to consolidate the furrows.

It is not neeessary here to explain at length the method of irrigation by the furrow or corrugated system, which, like every system, has its advocates.

A double mould-board or double-furrow plough can generally be made use of to connect the main ditches or flumes with the smaller ditches made by the furrower.

The implement is not intended for land in sod, though its use on such land might be made possible by the addition of a steel point to each furrower.

The distance a stream may be carried in any one furrow would depend on the nature of the soil and on the amount of water available.